

The January annual meeting of the Eight Point Sportsmen's' Club was called to order by President Baker at 8:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. The secretary's and treasurers' reports were read and accepted. There were no new members voted in. The election committee distributed ballots to members for voting. A motion was made and seconded to have the Secretary cast a single ballot for the Club Officers, as there was no contested seat. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Members were then instructed to vote for 8 of the Board of Director seats. The ballots were collected, and the meeting resumed.

## **Board of Directors**

It was brought to the attention of the BOD that under our current Bylaws, a junior member who reaches the age of 16 would be terminated as a member and would have to pay the regular membership rate. This would mean that a junior member would have to pay the original \$25 as well as the member rate of \$75 in one calendar year. The BOD approved unanimously to amend the bylaws to eliminate this. The original article was read and then the proposed amendment. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw change. After a brief discussion, a vote was taken to place the proposed changes in the newsletter to be voted upon at the February meeting. The original article and the proposed amendment are below. The changes are struck in the original bylaw and italicized in bold in the proposed amendment.

## **Current Bylaw**

Article IX Application for Membership  
Section 6

Any person under the age of 16 years may make application as provided in Article IX Section 1, to become a Junior Member of the "CLUB", and such members may be voted in the same manner as provided for regular members in Article IX Section 1. However, a Junior Member shall not have voting rights at any regular or special meeting. Any Junior Membership of the "CLUB" shall ~~terminate upon the member's attaining the age of 16 years, at which time he may then become a Regular Member by paying the regular annual.~~

## **Proposed Bylaw Change**

Article IX Application for Membership  
Section 6

Any person under the age of 16 years may make application as provided in Article IX Section 1, to become a Junior Member of the "CLUB", and such members may be voted in the same manner as provided for regular members in Article IX Section 1. However, a Junior Member shall not have voting rights at any regular or special meeting. Any Junior Membership of the "CLUB" shall ***be honored for the entire year of their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. The member must pay the regular membership dues to obtain full regular membership privileges the following year.***

## **Activities and Rentals**

The activities report was read and accepted.

## **Trap Committee**

Trap committee report was read and accepted. Dave again reminded members to stop by the fields to participate. He welcomed all skill levels and encouraged first time shooters to stop by and learn more.

## **Fish Committee**

ANNUAL ONE HOLER ICE FISHING CONTEST - will be held on Saturday January 27th , pond conditions permitting. Members only. \$5 entry fee toward a 50/50 raffle as in the past. See Greg to enter.

BLOCKHEAD ICE OUT CONTEST - will be held again, pond conditions permitting. Members only. \$5 entry fee toward a 50/50 raffle as in the past. Pick a day of the month for "ice out" of the Club Pond when the "block falls through the ice. Block will be placed on One Holer fishing day. See Greg to enter. [gplafamme@comcast.net](mailto:gplafamme@comcast.net) or call 508-868-4060.

ANGLER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023 -Several members turned in some nice fish this year. These included Casey Kruger, Dave Pineo Jr., Rich Pineo, Carl Hewitt, Brian Baird, Jameson Bastarche, Cameron Pierce and Junior member Kiley Kruger. Of special note, both JR and Rich Pineo were able to get me to catch a couple of nice fish on both of their boats. Imagine that! This year's award goes to Casey Kruger for his many fish caught in both fresh and saltwater and for working diligently on the Fish Committee as well. Congratulations!

FLATULATOR OF THE YEAR-Of special note, we recognize Joe Salluce for his being the first winner of the award back in the last millennium. He receives a hat as the First Foist. This year 2023 saw some spectacular competition. The featured presenting auditioners included Paul Nourse, JR Pineo Tom Pierce, Joe Salluce, Dave Pineo Sr., Casey Kruger and Jerry Boynton as the usual suspects. It is my displeasure to present the award for 2023 to JR for his outstanding yearlong performance.

The Club is looking for a replacement for Chairman of the Fish Committee. Please see President Charlie Baker if interested. I will be around for transition and will stay on the Fish Committee if asked. This is a chance to become involved in the workings of the Club and is a lot of fun.

Submitted by,  
Greg LaFlamme, Fish Committee Chairman

## **Worcester County League**

An Important Update on MA H4135/H4139 and what lays ahead....

MA House Passed H4135 with 2 amendments, the proposed new firearm legislation. H4135 now becomes H4139, was preceded by HD4605 and HD4420. WCLSC and MCA will continue to oppose any new firearm legislation. WCLSC and MCA is appreciative all the efforts to date by opposing legislators, sporting clubs and leagues, as well as Law Enforcement associations and departments. The breadth of poorly written suggested legislation is a national agenda being forced through the MA Legislative process that further restricts law abiding firearm owners while criminal firearm use will continue unimpeded nor be unaffected by this new proposed bill. Efforts will begin in the near future for campaigns to reach out to our MA Senators to oppose any new firearm bills that negatively affect law-abiding firearm owners. MCA and WCLSC are aligned with GOAL and many resources are detailed and available for download on the GOAL website, [www.goal.org](http://www.goal.org) .

## Old Business

The downstairs replacement cooler has been selected and will be ordered. The big buck and doe results will be awarded at the February meeting.

2024 Game supper tickets will be available at the February meeting. The supper will be held on Saturday March 2, 2024

## NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and seconded to spend up to \$2,500 to sponsor 2 campers for the Junior Conservation Camp. This will be voted upon at the February meeting. Camp is open to boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 17. Any youth interested should submit a letter of intent to the BOD. Or by E-mailing President Baker at [chuckrbaker@comcast.net](mailto:chuckrbaker@comcast.net)

As noted under the Board of Directors report we are actively hiring a new caretaker. This is a unique opportunity for the right person. The caretaker is required to live on site and provide their own residence. The club provides a cement pad suitable for a mobile home and septic. The caretaker is responsible for the costs of utilities. In lieu of salary for this position, there is a yearly rental lease of \$1.00. Imagine living rent free? Responsibilities include daily inspection of club buildings, cleaning and stocking of rest rooms, setting up hall for rentals and meetings and cleaning of hall after. Routine ground care to include lawn care, driveway maintenance and snow removal as needed using club provided equipment. Average time required is around 10 hours weekly.

Full job description is available by contacting President Baker at [chuckrbaker@comcast.net](mailto:chuckrbaker@comcast.net)

2024 GAME SUPPER SIGN UP SHEET- As we have said, the game supper requires a lot of volunteers. A sign-up sheet has been posted at the club. The following people are needed. Anyone who wants to help can contact President Baker

### PREPERATION WORK – CUTTING MEAT AND VEGTABLES

Tuesday February 27 ( 6 – 9pm ) Wednesday February 28 ( 6 – 9pm )

### PREPERATION WORK – MEAL PREPERATION AND HALL SET UP

Friday March 1 (6 – 9pm )

### SATURDAY MARCH 2 (2 – END)

2 – 4pm Plating appetizers and placing on tables (4 needed)

4 – 6pm Servers (12 needed)

4 – 6pm Runners, bring meals up and empties down (2 needed)

5 – 7pm Clean up (Dishes, hall clean up, rubbish, etc.) (8 needed)

As of this newsletter there have only been 2 volunteers who have reached out. This is a labor-intensive event. We are not asking for a full day, only a few hours. If no one steps up, then it will be the same people who cook every monthly meeting, run the fishing derby and clam bake. It will be the same people who volunteer their time and skills to make repairs to the club house and the trap fields. It will be the same people who volunteer their time to clean up from storms or clean the club house. But when these volunteers are gone, there will be no one. We will stop serving dinner at the monthly meetings. Then less people will come. We will have the fishing derby but not have a food shack. Then less people will come. There will be no one to make repairs at the trap and skeet fields. Then less people will come. There will be no one to clean and maintain the pond and it will get overgrown.

Then less people will come. The ranges will become overgrown, and less people will come. Eventually the meetings will occur bi-monthly and then semi-annually. With less people and lower revenue from membership and events we will be unable to function at our current level. We will stop having rentals because of the insurance costs. Eventually a local group will petition to stop shooting because of the noise and disturbance to the community. With no community events, we will have lost the support that we have always had. There will be no one to speak on behalf of the "CLUB" and what it provided to the community. With that vote the "CLUB" is essentially shut down. Scary but it is what could happen.

We have over 500 members. I know life is busy and it is easy to find so many reasons that you just do not have time. Please, you joined this club for a reason. We welcome everyone. We are more than willing to work with you, to find what you can offer the "CLUB". I am more than happy to talk to anyone who wants to participate. I encourage everyone to get involved. We are here to support our "CLUB" and that means we are here to support you. We are begging for new volunteers. The only thing we ask that that you have fun and learn what a great "CLUB" this is. Please reach out to me with any questions. You can call or text me at 978-375-0799 or E-mail at [chuckrbaker@comcast.net](mailto:chuckrbaker@comcast.net). I am always willing to talk and listen to your ideas or concerns. Charlie Baker

### **Membership renewals**

Casey Kruger is accepting 2024 membership renewals. Renewals can be paid in several ways 1) Payment directly to Casey Kruger, 2) Send a check to Eight Point Sportsman's Club, PO Box 235 Sterling, MA 01564, 3) deposit payment (along with application) at the clubhouse in the mail flap labeled "Membership" located at the bottom of the handicap ramp, 4) deposit payment (along with application) in the membership lockbox located inside the Trap house.

### **Election Results**

The results of the elections are as follows:

President: Charlie Baker    1st Vice President: Paul Nourse  
2nd Vice President: Dave Pineo Sr.  
Treasurer: Brian Baird    Secretary: Chris Magay

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Bob Hager, Kevin Kirby, Casey Kruger, Cooper Nourse, Tom Pierce, Dave Pineo Jr. Mike Regan, Joe Salluce

These members will take office at the January Board of Directors Meeting on January 16th and will serve through the 2025 Annual Elections.

Thank you to Charlie Kretz for overseeing the vote tally and to vote counters Victor Latek, Jeff Marsh, Rich Pineo and Anne Vincent.

Submitted by:

Greg LaFlamme, Nominating Chairman

The Annual meeting will be held on February 6, 2024.  
Dinner will be served at 7pm and the meeting will begin at 8pm.  
[chuckrbaker@comcast.net](mailto:chuckrbaker@comcast.net)